

Masonry Now and Then

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noted Mason that lived before his time, or since his time regardless of the St. John's. All Masons, yea all Freemasons acknowledge him as the great and most worshipful Master Mason that ever lived. And when this is done. We have given the readers a perfect chain clear back into the garden of God, without a ray of doubt. In him was embraced all the points and principles of Freemasonry in him was the grand work of Free and accepted Masonry laid down. And in order that the readers may know that we are right we shall ask you to read the following.

"SOLOMON. This celebrated monarch was the son of David by Bathsheba, through whose influence he inherited the Jewish throne, in preference to his elder brothers. During his long and peaceful reign—from B. C. 1015 to 975—the Hebrews enjoyed their golden age. His remarkable judicial decisions, and his completion of the political institutions of David, showed a superiority of genius which gained him the respect of the people. By building the Temple, which plays so important a role in the symbolism of Freemasonry, exceeding as it did, in splendor and beauty, all former works of architecture; he gave to the Hebrew worship a magnificence that bound the people more closely to the national rites. He was truly a great ruler; but, while the Jews were naturally proud of the glory which his great qualities reflected on the nation, his enlarged and liberal views with regard to intercourse with foreign people deeply offended the national bigotry. The decorations of the Temple were thought by many to be pagan emblems, and, finally, they accused him openly of idolatry. Solomon is often styled 'the first Grand Master of Masons.' This cannot be true. He might have been, and probably was, the first Grand Master of Masons in Judea; for Masonry was not known in that country until it was introduced by the Masons of Tyre and Sidon, who built the

Temple. Solomon must have been made a Mason at that time, unless he had been previously admitted into the society at Tyre or Sidon. To Solomon, however belongs to the honor of having brought the Masonic institution into a perfectness."—History of Freemasonry by Macoy Oliver.

Now we have the link that binds. But Free and accepted Masonry was not in its complete form until Christ died and rose again. Through him free and accepted Masonry was made complete and as we said in a former article on Oddfellow, through him Oddfellowship was brought in. Altho as we said above Solomon laid the foundation of those principles when he builded the temple, and got King Hiram to help him. So we must say that we shall not multiply many more words on the origin of Freemasonry. For we have proven beyond any doubt, the line and lineage of Masonry, and it has been duly set forth from the garden of God. That is the garden of Eden down to and connected Solomon with it—And from Solomon, there is no doubt. Then our closing remarks shall be on what Free Masonry should be to-day and this will tell what it was in its pure state. What should Free Masonry stand for to-day? Its name and principals stands for all that is good, and right. It stands for LIFE, LIBERTY, HAPPINESS AND EQUAL RIGHTS to all and every one. In this sense we are defining this time honored institution. But we ask, where is the Marshall, the Franklin, the Washington, the LaFayette, the De Witt Clintons' of today?

Those men in their time stood as giant oaks of the great forests, for those principles above named. A Free Mason, should be a man of honor, and of a pure conscience, preferring his duty to everything beside even to his life; submissive to good laws, devoted to the cause of humanity, to his country, his brethren, the cause of the widows and the orphans. And his own family above all. For he that will not care for his own household is worse than an infidel and has denied the faith.

And Masonry should be the happy recipient of all truth. It should be the embodiment of all perfectness, of the spirit and the aspirations of man. It is intended to be an institution; whose duty it is to stoop to the poor and the unfortunate, to hear their cry, to rescue them, and help them. It should be a kingly figure, compact and grand, and fronts with face to welcome the down trodden, and lift with its "Lion Grip," to a peaceful hour of Love to the Grand Architect of the Universe. And on this firm eternal and fundamental basis of right and truth lies the foundation of every mystic right.

In this ancient Order of Free Masonry. Which was established by Christ himself. Therefore he said through Paul "Stand fast in the Liberty wherewith Christ has made you free." But now before closing this article we shall ask the Masonic Fraternity how shall we restore a good thing?—Please read:

"BEAUTY AND BANDS. The application of beauty and bands to the science of Freemasonry was in much esteem with our brethren at the beginning of the present century; but at the reunion, being pronounced inconsistent with the general plan of the Order, it was expunged and is now nearly forgotten, except by a few old Masons, who may perhaps, recollect the illustration as an incidental subject of remark amongst the Fraternity of that period."—(History and Cyclopaedia of Freemasonry by Macoy Oliver.)

BEAUTY AND BANDS were surely a great stay and a staff to Masonry, when we read the following:

"And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock." (Zech. 11—7) Will they be restored?

We are now closing on this all important subject until the near future. And we do hope the Mason who reads this may think twice, speak once, and come for more light. And also help the CRESSET.